

Metropolitan Council  
St. Louis Park City Hall

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Meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee  
June 5, 2019

Members Present	Chair Nora Slawik Mike Barnes Jan Callison Molly Cummings Dan Duffy	Christopher Ferguson Jason Gadd Debbie Goettel Marion Greene Wes Kooistra	Will Roach Brad Wiersum Robin Hutchison (Alt) Elie Farhat (Alt)
Members Absent	Asad Aliweyd Ron Case	Jake Spano	James Hovland

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Nora Slawik called the June 5, 2019, meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee to order at 10:05 a.m. at the St. Louis Park City Hall.

Since there are many new members of the CMC, Chair Slawik asked for members to introduce themselves, the organization they are with and what they are most excited about with the SWLRT project.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Slawik presented the November 26, 2018, SWLRT Corridor Management Committee meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Callison made a motion to approve, Mayor Wiersum seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

**3. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

Chair Slawik reported that the Met Council is very excited about the SWLRT project and this project fits into the Council's long-term vision, along with helping fulfill the Walz-Flanagan vision of One Minnesota and the equity overlay of the transit/housing vision. This project is key to keeping the region economically viable.

Chair Slawik provided a legislative debrief. We will make a case for new transit in the future, with both the bonding bill next year and the funding year following that. Chair Slawik thanked Hennepin County for the funding for SWLRT, as the project now has the necessary resources to move forward and is not negatively impacted in any way by the legislative outcome.

**4. PROJECT UPDATE**

Mr. Jim Alexander, SWLRT Project Director, provided a project update. The Kenilworth Trail and the Bass Lake Spur Trail were closed on May 13, which was about the time when the contractor was delivering rail to the Bass Lake Spur area. There were two occasions where flaggers failed to notify construction crews of a train passing the worksite. There was a breakdown in communications between TCWR train crews and the flaggers. We are re-evaluating communication procedures with our contractor, LMJV, and TCWR to determine if additional measures can be taken to further ensure the safety of construction workers and LMJV. Mr. Alexander asked that everyone bear with us as we refine this process.

Mr. Alexander provided an update on the FTA process. We awarded the Civil Construction contract following a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) that FTA granted which allowed us to proceed with the contract, having the monies now be eligible for a cost share from FTA once we receive our Full Funding

Grant Agreement (FFGA). Mr. Alexander and project office staff meet with FTA at least monthly to discuss matters related to the project. The FTA is reviewing our responses to their recent questions on their Financial Capacity Assessment. We will have to submit another LONP request for our Systems work, as we look to award the Systems contract to the low bidder in the fall timeframe.

Mr. Alexander reviewed the schedule slide. Vehicles are currently in production at the Siemens plant in California. Civil construction lifted off in late 2018 with the LONP, with heavy construction to continue and run through 2022. Following that will be testing and revenue operations in 2023.

## **6. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Brian Runzel, Director of Construction introduced himself and provided his background before joining the SWLRT project. Mr. Runzel then provided a construction update. The org chart for the construction team that will be working on the Civil construction was shown.

Mr. Runzel reported that a pre-construction meeting was held, with about 100 in attendance. Smaller, weekly meetings are also held including our team members and the cities, county and agency staff for progress updates, management of traffic and utility coordination discussions. These meetings are very helpful for updating our partners with key information.

Mr. Runzel went over some of the submittals and field work happening to date, which include:

- Pre-construction vibration monitoring at Calhoun Isles Condominium (CICA). This work was completed, and the data was shared with CICA's consultant.
- The delivery of freight rail.
- Clearing and grubbing. This work has started at many locations. Following this the areas will be fenced so construction can begin.
- Sheet pile installation at Southwest Station.

Mr. Runzel shared photos of some of the work and reported that in 2019, we will focus on bridges, tunnels, retaining walls and utility relocations. The four critical path areas include: Southwest Station, Excelsior Boulevard Bridge, Kenilworth Tunnel and the Glenwood Area.

## **5. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH**

Ms. Sam O'Connell, Manager of Outreach, presented an overview of communications and outreach activities for the project. The main way to provide updated information is our Gov Delivery email on Fridays, which highlights any construction changes and items coming up for the week. Other venues include Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and the SWLRT website, which are all good ways to get updated information. On the project website, we have station renderings, videos, and committee information available. The Friday email update was started on April 26 and will continue during construction. Ms. O'Connell went over the metrics for GovDelivery and the website.

In May, we also went live with the Construction Hotline. The hotline number is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by a live operator. If an urgent issue is called in, it goes into urgent mode and entered into a call tree to Project staff. Questions that come in go to the outreach coordinators who then follow up with the caller. Ms. O'Connell distributed cards for members to hand out listing the hotline number. The number is also advertised on about 135 signs located throughout the project corridor.

The outreach team has been reaching out to property owners, businesses and neighborhoods to discuss access during construction. Staff are also reaching out to businesses so they can share with their suppliers, customers and employees. We plan to hold construction open houses in July, along with more pop-up events along the trails and participate in summer community events and neighborhood meetings.

**6. DBE & WORKFORCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mr. Jon Tao, DBE Specialist for SWLRT Project presented. The DBE & Workforce Advisory Committee met for the first time on May 16. This committee helps find solutions and ways to resolve concerns from stakeholders. The make up of the committee was shown.

Mr. Tao explained that the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program is a federal program aimed at leveling the playing field for women and minority owned businesses in federally assisted contracts. The DBE goals on the two major SWLRT contracts are: 16% for Civil construction and 12% for Systems. MN Dept. of Human Rights is leading the workforce compliance portion, which has goals set at 20% women and 32% people of color.

Mr. Tao went over the difference between DBE and Workforce. For DBE, participation is measured by the dollars paid to the DBE businesses; and workforce participation is measured by the hours worked on the project by skilled workers. These programs work together to support the Council’s equity commitments to the region.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Slawik thanked those for presenting.

**6. ADJOURN**

Will Roach made a motion to adjourn, Council member Ferguson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Hoffner, Recording Secretary